Appl No. 09/646,984 Amdt. Dated August 20, 2003 Reply to Office Action of May 20, 2003 Custoner No. 27752

Case 7070

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of

Donn Nelton Rubingh et al.

Serial No. 09/646,984

Confirmation No. 3865

Group Art Unit 1652

Filed September 25, 2000

Examiner W.W. Moore

For

SERINE PROTEASE VARIANTS HAVING AMINO ACID DELETIONS AND

SUBSTITUTIONS

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL REJECTION

Assistant Commissioner of Patents

Washington, DC 20231

Dear Examiner:

In response to the May 20, 2003 Office Action in the above-entitled application, please amend the application as follows and consider the following remarks. The Office Action provided for a timely response up to and including August 20, 2003.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Response to Office Action begin on page 5 of this paper.